Remarks

The Examiner's arguments have been carefully considered and it is submitted that those arguments and claim rejections are now moot in view of the amendments now made and arguments submitted.

The independent claims are all amended to make it clear that the restoration process takes place after a failure. Only after a failure are messages sent between the nodes to dynamically determine possible restoration routes. In contrast each of the references cited by the Examiner, Doverspike, Agrawal and Chaudhuri, all use pre-computed restoration paths. For example, column 10 lines 2-4 of Doverspike refers to pre-planned routes. Chaudhuri at paragraph 0116 states that it is essential to pre-compute and store the restoration routes. Also, Agrawal at paragraph 0026 states that restoration paths are pre-computed and stored. Thus the claims are all not anticipated by those cited references.

The independent claims are all also amended to specify that the messages are sent in a fully distributed search process. Support is found in the instant application at page 4 line 24. In contrast Doverspike is not a fully distributed solution. Rather in Doverspike there are pre-defined subnetworks each having a single subnetwork restoration controller (SRC) (see column 1 line 14 and abstract of Doverspike).

The independent claims are also amended to incorporate the feature of claim 2 and to specify that the optical parameters are collected by the messages sent between the nodes. Support is found in the instant application on page 16 and in claims 16 and 17. Doverspike and Agrawal do not teach the use of optical parameters in this way. Also, although Chaudhuri mentions optical parameters at paragraph 0133 it uses pre-computed restoration routes. It does not mention dynamically determining restoration routes using optical parameter information collected after failure. For these reasons the skilled person would not have been able to reach the present invention by combining the cited references. Even so, because all the cited

references use pre-computed restoration routes the skilled person would not have considered them when addressing the problem of dynamically determining restoration routes as in the present invention.

For these reasons it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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